

**Maine Regional Library System
18th Annual Reading Round-Up of Children's and Young Adult Literature
Augusta Civic Center
April 17, 2008**

MAINE EXAMINATION COLLECTION OF CHILDREN'S AND YOUNG ADULT BOOKS

“Cream of the Crop”

KEY

L	Library binding	[M] Maine Author, Illustrator, Setting
P	Paperback	
R	Reinforced trade binding	
T	Trade binding	

All of the titles on this list have been favorably reviewed by members of the Southern Maine Library District (SMLD) Book Review Group. Publishing date for all books is 2007, unless otherwise noted. Total books: 125

PICTURE BOOK – NONFICTION [total books in this category: 15]

Aston, Dianna Hutts. A Seed is Sleepy. Chronicle Books. 978-0-8118-5520-4, T \$16.95 (Grade K-4). Stunning, generously sized botanical watercolors by Sylvia Long compliment richly descriptive text listing some attributes of seeds.

Bishop, Nic. Nic Bishop Spiders. Scholastic. 978-0-439-87756-5, T \$16.99 (Grade K-3). Bishop's amazing close-up photographs (including a fold out spread of a jumping spider jumping) & informative text makes this a good introduction to the subject. Good index, brief glossary and author's statement. Sibert Honor.

Carle, Eric. Artist to Artist: 23 Major Illustrators Talk to Children about Their Art. Philomel. 978-0399-24600-5 R \$30.00 (All Ages). Beginning “Dear young artist...” each illustrator writes a brief letter documenting dreams and career paths, the facing fold-out page has a self-portrait and samples of work. Brief biographies and selected bibliographies complete the package.

Davies, Nicola. White Owl, Barn Owl. Candlewick Press. 978-0-7636-3364-6, T \$16.99 (Grade K-3). Places factual information about barn owls alongside the story of a child & her grandpa patiently waiting to see activity around a nest box. The softly colored art by Michael Foreman depicts owl behavior and the tender relationship of the humans. Includes notes about nest boxes and an index.

Debon, Nicolas. The Strongest Man in the World: Louis Cyr. Groundwood. 978-0-88899-731-9, T \$17.95 (Grade 1-4). This picture book biography in graphic novel form introduces the reader to strong man Louis Cyr, as he reminisces with his daughter about his boyhood, his rise to fame, and the circus he owned in Quebec. The afterward includes photos and additional information about Cyr and his era. Boston Globe-Horn Book Award for Nonfiction.

Falwell, Cathryn. Shape Capers. Greenwillow. 978-0-06-123700-3, L [M] \$17.89 (Preschool). Maine author & illustrator Falwell teases the imagination while teaching five shapes using a simple rhyming text and clear, bright artwork featuring five children.

Florian, Douglas. Comets, Stars, the Moon, and Mars: Space Poems and Paintings. Harcourt. 978-0-15-205372-7, R \$16.00 (Grade K-6). Bold and intriguing gouache/collage/rubber stamp illustrations and 20 short poems artfully combine fun & fact about objects in space. The “galactic glossary” and selected bibliography completes this creative work by a master of the genre.

Here's a Little Poem: a Very First Book of Poetry. Collected by Jane Yolen, & Andrew Fusek Peters. Candlewick Press. 978-0-7636-3141-3, R \$21.99 (Pre-Grade 2). Cherry-cheeked children abound in the mixed media art by Polly Dunbar making this collection of 60 poems, a nice mix of familiar and not-so, stand out.

Jenkins, Steve. Dogs and Cats. Houghton Mifflin. 978-0-618-50767-2, T \$16.00 (Grade K-4). Jenkin's signature paper collages continue to amaze, this time illustrating a 2-for-1 topsy-turvy book (half is dogs, flip and the other half is cats) chock full of interesting and informative facts.

Manning, Mick. Dino-Dinners. Holiday House. 978-0-8234-2089-6, T \$16.95 (Grade K-2). These are not cuddly dinosaurs. Brita Granstrom's bright watercolors do not shy away from depicting bloody mouths, curving claws, or piles of poop. Brief rhyming text alludes to the eating habits of ten dinosaurs, sidebars contain factual tid-bits. Glossary and time-line included.

Mora, Pat. Yum! Mmmm! Que Rico!: America's Sproutings. Lee & Low Books. 97801-58430-271-1, R \$16.95 (Grade K-6). Fourteen foods indigenous to the Americas, including Maine's blueberry, are presented through haiku and informational side-panels. Bold, cheerful acrylic illustrations by muralist Rafael Lopez add lots of kid appeal.

Schlitz, Laura Amy. The Bearskin: a Tale from the Brother's Grimm. Candlewick Press. 978-0-7636-2730-0, T \$16.99 (Grade K-6). A greedy young man makes a deal with the devil by agreeing to wear a bear's skin for seven years. The illustrations use dark, brown tones to convey the ominous, but ultimately uplifting message in this retelling.

Seeger, Laura Vaccaro. First the Egg. Roaring Brook Press. 978-1-59643272-7, T \$14.95 (Pre-Grade K). Simple, yet cleverly sophisticated. Minimalist text joins Seeger's painterly die-cut pages that turn to reveal a series of progressions: egg-chicken, tadpole-frog, word-story, paint-picture, back to the egg. Caldecott Honor and Theodor Seuss Geisel Honor.

Walker, Alice. Why War is Never a Good Idea. HarperCollins. 978-0-06-075386-3, L \$17.89 (All Ages). Lyrically presents an unsubtle view of the horrific impact of war. Artwork by Stefano Vitale moves from pastel bucolic scenes to an image of a textured menacing monster.

Wise, Bill. Louis Sockalexis: Native American Baseball Pioneer. Lee & Low Books. 978-1-584302698, R [M] \$16.95 (Grade K-3). Beautifully illustrated with oil paintings by Bill Farnsworth, the focus of this inspiring biography is on Sockalexis' early life up to his heroic Major League debut against the NY Giants in 1897. This Maine born Penobscot Indian faced racism with courage and determination. The afterward details his life achievements & the author's sources are listed.

PICTURE BOOK – FICTION [total books in this category: 27]

Baker, Keith. Hickory Dickory Dock. Harcourt. 978-0-15-205818-0, R \$16.00 (Pre-Grade K). Take the standard Mother Goose rhyme, add animals that react to the clock as it strikes 1-12. Baker's large, bright illustrations enhance the text.

Broach, Elise. When Dinosaurs Came With Everything. Atheneum. 978-0-689-869228, R \$16.99 (Pre-Grade 3). For those who love dinosaurs and have a great imagination. What would happen if you received a free dinosaur with every purchase? David Small's sketched watercolors add to the fun of this amusing picture book.

Dunbar, Polly. Penguin. Candlewick. 978-0-7636-3404-9, R \$15.99 (Preschool). A quirky little tale. Upon being rescued from the mouth of a large blue lion, toddler Ben overcomes his frustration with Penguin's silence and a firm friendship is forged. Expressive, humorous watercolors created by the author.

Ehlert, Lois. Wag a Tail. Harcourt. 978-0-15-205843-2, R \$16.00 (Preschool). Canine graduates of the Bow Wow School meet with their owners at the local Farmer's Market. Vibrant colors, lots of buttons & dynamic shapes: Ehlert's collage artistry is superb.

Elschner, Geraldine. Max's Magic Seeds. Penguin. 978-0-90698040059-7, R \$16.99 (Pre-Grade 4). A French version of Miss Rumphius. Max's Uncle Bill gives him a sack of seeds on his birthday. On his daily walks to school Max broadcasts the assortment of seeds. Soon many wonderful flowers are blooming and folks can't stop talking about them. Using bright colors, the illustrations show this now colorful French town from Max's view.

Fallen, Regis. Polo: The Runaway Book. Roaring Book Press. 978-1-59643-189-8, T \$16.95 (All Ages). This imaginative and wordless picture book is a companion to *The Adventures of Polo*. After his book is taken by an alien, Polo gives chase and encounters many strange characters and interesting places. In a satisfying conclusion, each character shares in Polo's celebration.

Gravett, Emily. Orange Pear Apple Bear. Simon & Schuster. 978-1-1469-3999-3, R \$12.99 (Pre-Grade K). This concept book explores color, shapes, and sequence using only five words and a playful bear. Simple illustrations add to this innovative book for young readers.

Harper, Charise Mericle. When Randolph Turned Rotten. Knopf. 978-0-375-84071-5, T \$16.99 (Pre-Grade 3). In this simply told story, best friends Ivy (a goose) and Randolph (a beaver) do everything together. When Ivy is invited to a girls-only birthday party, Randolph is "full of bad feelings" and comes up with ways to spoil Ivy's fun. Harper's colorful illustrations, often several to a page, keep pace with the comic story. Balloons allow the characters to give their take in this reassuring tale about feelings.

Hartland, Jessie. Night Shift. Bloomsbury. 978-1-59990025-4, T \$16.95 (Pre-Grade K). The author/illustrator's bright gouache artwork, in a wacky-realistic style, and rich descriptive language showcase 14 occupations, from window dressers & museum guards to fishermen, waitresses & donut bakers, all typically done at night.

Henkes, Kevin. A Good Day. Greenwillow. 978-0-06114018-1, T \$16.99 (Pre-Grade K). Using an economy of words, this is a lovely lesson on how quickly what seems a downer can be reversed. Bird, dog, fox & squirrel each have a problem, the problem is resolved and a good day is had by all. Soft, realistic watercolor illustrations by Henkes.

Jay, Alison. 1 2 3: A Child's First Counting Book. Dutton. 978-0525-478362, R \$15.99 (Pre-Grade K). With illustrations in her typical decorative style, Jay takes readers on a counting spree up to ten and back again through familiar fairy tales.

Jeffers, Oliver. The Incredible Book Eating Boy. Philomel. 978-0-399-24749-1, T \$16.99 (Grade K-3). Henry hopes that by eating the books he loves he will become the smartest boy in the world. But, is this the best way to become smart? Clever illustrations combining recycled book pages and drawings add to the unique story.

Kleven, Elisa. The Apple Doll. Farrar, Straus and Giroux. 978-0-374-30380-9, T \$16.00 (Pre-Grade 3). A book celebrating the creative spirit in children. Anxious about starting school, Lizzy constructs an apple and a twig doll. When the apple begins to rot, Lizzy's mother comes up with a solution that is a hit with the entire class. Kleven's muted watercolors include her signature collage and cut paper dolls. Directions for drying apples are included.

Klise, Kate and M. Sarah Klise. Imagine Harry. Harcourt. 978-0-15-205704-6, T \$16.00 (Preschool). Little Rabbit does everything with his imaginary friend Harry until he begins school and makes some real friends. The large, colorful illustrations beautifully capture Little Rabbit's adventures in this gentle, reassuring tale.

Krauss, Ruth. The Growing Story. HarperCollins. 978-0-06-024717-1, L \$17.89 (Pre-Grade K). New art by acclaimed English illustrator Helen Oxenbury spruces up this timeless tale, originally published in 1947, of a young boy questioning his own development.

Levine, Ellen. Henry's Freedom Box: A True Story from the Underground Railroad. Scholastic. 978-0-439-77733-9, R \$16.99 (Grade K-3). Based on the life of Henry "Box" Brown, a runaway slave who mailed himself to freedom. Large paintings by Kadir Nelson realistically capture the intense emotions and conditions of the time. Caldecott Honor.

Miles, Victoria. Old Mother Bear. Chronicle. 978-0-8118-5033-9, R \$16.95 (Grade K-4). Reading like a naturalist's journal, this informative book documents a wise female grizzly bear raising her last litter of cubs. Molly Bang's warm, rich illustrations capture the extraordinary life of this wilderness icon.

Mortensen, Denise. Wake Up Engines. Clarion. 978-0-618-51736-7, T \$16.00 (Pre-Grade K). For all the truck lovers in your library, this years' truck book describes morning traffic with big, bright illustrations and a rhyming text full of the sights and sounds of vehicles.

Nikola-Lisa, W. Magic in the Margins: a Medieval Tale of Bookmaking. Houghton Mifflin. 978-0-618-49642-6, T \$17.00 (Grade K-9). A tale of medieval bookmaking in which a young boy learns how heart must infuse talent to create beauty. Artist Bonnie Christiansen frames each illustration to resemble an illuminated book. Try using it with *Good Masters! Sweet Ladies!*

Pearce, Philippa. The Squirrel Wife. Candlewick Press. 978-0-7636-3551-0, T \$16.00 (Grade K-3). An original fairy tale. When Jack enters the forbidden forest and rescues one of the green people, he is rewarded with a squirrel wife. Together, they make a good life until Jack's mean-spirited older brother turns the villagers against them. Earthy colors are soft and will transport readers to another time and place.

Pendziwol, Jean. E. Marja's Skis. Groundwood. 978-0-88899-674-9, T \$17.95 (Grade 1-4). When Marja is seven she is able to ski to school, despite her mother's fears. Readers will wonder how Marja copes after a shocking event turns her world upside down. The oil pastel illustrations are muted and give emotion to this story of life in the north woods

Ries, Lori. Punk Wig. Boyd's Mills. 978-1-59078-486-0, R \$16.95 (Pre-Grade 3). A mom's battle with cancer is conveyed with warmth and humor. The language is easy for young readers to grasp and upbeat illustrations by Erin Kono capture the hope, strength, and strong bond between mother and son.

Robbins, Jacqui. The New Girl...And Me. Atheneum. 978-0-698-86468-1, R \$16.95 (Pre-Grade 3). Matt Phelan uses a pale palette to illustrate this gentle, but affirming tale of two very different little girls navigating the rocky road to friendship.

Seeger, Laura Vaccaro. Dog and Bear: Two Friends, Three Stories. Roaring Press Books. 978-1-59643-053-2, T \$12.95 (Pre-Grade K). Three sweet stories about a real dog and a stuffed bear. The author's use of white space and bold watercolors complement the simple text. Boston Globe-Horn Book Award for Picture Book.

Thompson, Lauren. The Apple Pie that Papa Baked. Simon & Schuster. 978-1-41691-240-8, R \$15.99 (Pre-Grade K). Cumulative verse, with a "This is the House that Jack Built" feeling, going from pie to apple tree to sky & world. Jonathan Bean's ink illustrations, rendered in red, black & light brown, playfully suggest a 1930ish rural scene.

Wheeler, Lisa. Jazz Baby. Harcourt. 978-0-15-202522-9, T \$16.00 (Pre-Grade 3). A loving, multi-cultural family takes part in the music of the day with a "clap, clap, clap" and a "tap, tap, tap." Wheeler's rhythmic, rhyming text, along with R. Gregory Christie's illustrations will have young listeners moving to the beat. Theodor Seuss Geisel Honor.

Wood, Audrey. A Dog Needs a Bone! Blue Sky Press. 978-0-545-00005-5, R \$16.99 (Pre-Grade 3). In this jaunty tale, a dog makes inflated promises to his mistress if she will only give him a bone. Rhyming text and simple illustrations with a brown paper background make this a fun read aloud for all ages.

FICTION [total books in this category: 56]

Abadzis, Nick. Laika. First Second/Roaring Brook. 978-1-59643-101-0, P \$17.95 (Grade 6-12). This affecting graphic novel tells the story of the world's first, doomed space dog, Laika, the woman who cares for her, and the director of the Soviet space program, who sacrificed the little dog to his own ambition.

Abdel-Fattah, Randa. Does My Head Look Big in This? Orchard/Scholastic. 978-0-439-91947-0, R \$16.99 (Grade 6-12). When Amal decides to wear the *hijab*, the head covering worn by many Muslim women, she takes herself and her schoolmates through a very funny and often emotional journey of cultural and self-discovery, in this Australian import.

Bang-Campbell, Monika. Little Rat Makes Music. Harcourt. 978-0-15-205305-5, T \$15.00 (Grade K-3). Little Rat finds practicing her violin boring until she is asked to perform in a holiday concert. Molly Bang's colorful, full-page illustrations bring the story to life. Third book in an early-chapter series.

Banks, Kate. Lenny's Space. Frances Foster Books. 978-0-374-34575-4, R \$16.00 (Grade 4-6). Lenny's space is in the office of a sensitive school counselor, who helps him find effective ways to control some of his impulsive behavior and come to grips with the tragedies in his young life. Readers get to know the person behind Lenny's ADHD-type behavior in a way that might help them have better understanding of children with similar problems.

Barrows, Annie. Ivy & Bean Break the Fossil Record. Chronicle Books. 978-0-8118-5683-6, T \$14.95 (Grade K-3). After Ivy tells Bean about the paleontologist Mary Anning, Bean decides to dig for fossils in her own backyard. When Bean discovers some old bones ("The Bones of Mystery") in her backyard, and invites her classmates to view them, Ivy comes to her rescue. Blackwell's soft pencil illustrations grace the pages of the continuing adventures of these two best friends.

Brooks, Martha. Mistik Lake. Melanie Kroupa/FSG. 978-0-374-34985-1, R \$16.00 (Grade 9-12). This hauntingly beautiful look at the best and worst of small-town life follows Odella, her father and her sisters as they work to recover from their mother's abandonment. The Manitoba setting is lovingly evoked.

Cooney, Caroline B. Enter Three Witches. Scholastic. 978-0-439-71156-2, R \$16.99 (Grade 6-12). *Macbeth* receives a fresh treatment in this look at the events of the familiar play through the perspectives of the women of the household.

Dowd, Siobhan. A Swift Pure Cry. David Fickling Books. 978-0-385-75108-7, T \$16.99 (Grade 9-12). Fifteen-year-old Shell has tried to care for her younger brothers after her mother's death. She dodges a clumsy incest attempt from her grief-stricken father, then finds support from a young local priest who helps her after she conceives a baby with an immature local boy. Mature themes are beautifully handled.

Dowell, Frances O'Roark. Phineas L. MacGuire Gets Slimed! Atheneum Books. 978-1-4169-0196-9, R \$16.99 (Grade 4-9). Fourth grade scientist Phineas collects slime molds and creatively resolves some of the many issues grade-schoolers can encounter. This book celebrates kids with unusual academic interests!

Fine, Anne. Jamie and Angus Together. Candlewick. 978-0-7636-3374-5, R \$15.99 (Grade K-4). Six episodic tales from England's former Children's Laureate follow the gentle adventures of young Jamie and his favorite stuffed animal.

Funke, Cornelia. Igraine the Brave. Chicken House. 978-0-439-90379-0, R \$16.99 (Grade 4-8). After Igraine's wizard parents accidentally turn themselves into pigs, she must go off on a quest for giant's hair to restore them, a mission that fits perfectly with her spunky determination to become a knight.

Gardner, Lyn. Into the Woods. David Fickling/Random House. 978-0-385-75115-5, T \$16.99 (Grade 4-8). Gardner plaits themes and characters from familiar fairy-tales to tell the story of three sisters—intrepid Storm, homebody Aurora and baby Anything—as they venture Into the Woods to foil the evil plans of the sinister Dr. DeWilde.

Gifford, Peggy. Moxie Maxwell Does Not Love Stuart Little. Schwartz & Wade. 978-0-375-83915-3, T \$12.99 (Grade 3-6). Nine-year-old Moxie does, eventually, get to her summer reading assignment, but not without a comic struggle. Her twin brother (in the guise of photographer Valorie Fisher) documents all in this amusing chapter book.

Green, John. An Abundance of Katherines. Dutton Books, 2006. 978-0-525-47688-1, R \$16.99 (Grade 9-12). Rejected by one Katherine after another (nineteen in all) in his life, former child-prodigy Colin goes on a road trip with his best friend Hassan. All the while he struggles to create a mathematical formula to explain Katherine behavior. Nerds everywhere should embrace this funny and imaginative book.

Greene, Stephanie. Sophie Hartley, On Strike. Clarion Books, 2006. 978-0-618-71960-0, R \$15.00 (Grade 2-5). Sophie and her siblings go on strike after their mother creates a list of assigned household chores for them. Family dynamics and the importance of cooperation are explored in this witty tale.

Harazin, S. A. Blood Brothers. Delacorte Press. 978-0-385-73364-9, T \$15.99 (Grade 9-12). Clay, a talented and mature hospital orderly coming from a lifetime of poverty, has little in common with his best friend, Joey. But that doesn't diminish the tragedy when he accidentally causes Joey a life-threatening injury, and has to find a way to deal with the consequences.

Hest, Amy. Remembering Mrs. Rossi. Candlewick Press. 978-0-7636-2163-6, T \$14.99 (Grade K-6). A comforting book told in a series of vignettes showing how eight-year-old Annie deals with the sudden death of her mother, Mrs. Rossi, a sixth-grade teacher. With the help of Mrs. Rossi's class, Annie and her father are able to cope with their grief. The story ends on a hopeful note. Touching and believable, this story will engage a wide audience.

Hill, Kirkpatrick. Do Not Pass Go. McElderry Books. 978-1-4169-1400-6, R \$15.99 (Grade 5-9). Deet's father has been sent to prison. How the introspective teen learns to deal with his own shame, the attitude of his fellow small-town students, and all the other issues that come with having a parent in jail makes for a strong and engaging read.

Hurwitz, Johanna. Mostly Monty. Candlewick Press. 978-0-7636-2831-4, T \$15.99 (Grade 2-4). Monty, who suffers from asthma, blossoms upon entering first grade. In short chapters readers learn how he finds a pet, discovers a hobby, and makes some friends. Pen and ink illustrations allow readers to feel connected to Monty.

Jinks, Caroline. Evil Genius. Harcourt. 978-0-15-205988-0, R \$17.00 (Grade 6-12). Cadel Piggott is an unusual child: Referred to a child psychologist at the age of 7 because of his propensity for hacking into sophisticated computer systems, he is told just one thing by his therapist: "Next time, don't get caught." In no time, he's enrolled in the Axis Institute for formal training as a criminal mastermind.

Karr, Kathleen. Born for Adventure. Marshall Cavendish. 978-0-7614-5348-2, R \$16.99 (Grade 6-10). The horrific events surrounding Henry Morton Stanley's 1887 Expedition for the Relief of the Emin Pasha come alive for readers through the voice of young Tom Ormsby as it cuts a swath through the Great Forest of the Congo.

Kennedy, Marlene. Me and the Pumpkin Queen. Harper Collins. 978-0-06-114023-5, L \$ 16.89 (Grade 3-6). To satisfy a wish of her now-dead mother, ten-year-old Mildred is determined to grow a world class sized pumpkin for her town's annual festival. Mildred, a likeable and determined character, shares with readers all the necessary techniques, making this book both instructive and very amusing. A terrific read-aloud for younger listeners, as well!

Kephart, Beth. Undercover. Harper Teen. 978-0-06-123894-9, L \$17.89 (Grade 7-12). Solitary Elisa writes beautiful poetry for most of the boys in her class to use in wooing their favorite girls. Captivated by a pond hidden in the winter woods, she teaches herself to ice skate like a champ and develops a relationship with a popular boy who has previously used her poetic talents on another teen. Will Elisa find true love?

Leavitt, Martine. Keturah and Lord Death. Front Street/Boyds Mills, 2006. 978-1-932425-29-1, R \$17.00 (Grade 8-12). Lost and near death in the forest, Keturah meets Lord Death and bargains for her life; she gets 24 hours to find her true love, in this beautiful tale of simple magic.

MacLachlan, Patricia. Edward's Eyes. Atheneum. 978-1-4169-2743-3, R \$15.99 (Grade 4-8). From the time of Edward's birth, his older brother Jake has had a special relationship with the child. A tragic accident leaves Jake struggling to cope, but the almost miraculous conclusion of this book leaves readers (and Jake) emotionally uplifted.

MacLeod, Doug. I'm Being Stalked by a Moonshadow. Front Street/Boyds Mills. 978-1-59078-501-0, R \$16.95 (Grade 6-10). In a refreshing change from the ubiquitous ChickLit, this very funny Australian import presents the trials and tribulations of young Seth, whose hippie parents are clashing with each other and the bureaucrat father of the object of Seth's affections.

Marsden, Carolyn. When Heaven Fell. Candlewick. 978-0-7636-3175-8, T \$15.99 (Grade 4-6). Set in modern day Vietnam, impoverished nine-year-old Binh longs to attend school and hopes that her half-American aunt, adopted by a U.S. family at the end of the Vietnam War, will give her money. Cultural misunderstandings abound, but at the end of the story a satisfactory compromise is reached. Binh is a likable character and readers will respond to her hopes and dreams.

Matthews, L.S. A Dog for Life. Delacorte Press, 2006. 978-0-385-73366-6, T \$14.95 (Grade 4-8). Tom, his brother John and their dog Mouse have an amazing mental connection. After Tom contracts leukemia and their mom decides the dog must be given away, John and Mouse embark on a journey across England to find their long-lost uncle. Mouse's mature take on things is vastly amusing in this exciting adventure tale with a twist.

McKissack, Patricia C. A Friendship for Today. Scholastic Press. 978-0-439-66098-3, R \$16.99 (Grade 5-9). In the fall of 1954, Rosemary becomes the only black sixth grader in a newly integrated elementary school in Missouri. As her best friend struggles with polio, Rosemary finds a special place in the world with the help of a strong mother, a great teacher and a wise school principal. This book is moving and amazing.

Mills, Claudia. Being Teddy Roosevelt. Farrar, Straus and Giroux. 978-0-374-30657-1, T \$16.00 (Grade K-3). While researching a class project on Teddy Roosevelt, fourth-grader Riley O'Rourke adopts the twenty-sixth President's can-do attitude to secure a saxophone and join the school band. The text is complemented by R. W. Alley's black & white sketches showing happy children in a classroom setting.

Monninger, Joseph. Baby. Front Street/Boyds Mills. 978-1-59078-502-7, R \$16.95 (Grade 6-12). Rebellious teen Baby finds unexpected solace with her umpteenth foster family, New Hampshire back-to-the-landers whose sled dogs inspire her to turn her life around.

Morgan, Christopher and Neil Curtis. Pirates Eat Porridge. Roaring Brook Press. 978-1-59643-304-5, T \$14.95 (Grade 2-4). A pirate shows up at Billy and Heidi's house to retrieve a treasure map. Thus begins their adventure filled journal. This beginning chapter book is full of odd facts about pirates, parrots and cabbages.

Murdock, Catherine Gilbert. The Off Season. Houghton Mifflin. 978-0-618-68695-7, R \$16.00 (Grade 7-12). In the sequel to Dairy Queen, readers revisit the world of D.J. Schwenk, female varsity football star, still making a place in the world for her very unique self. An injury sidelines her from the team, she has a falling-out with the guy of her dreams, and most importantly, her idolized older brother, Win, suffers a severe spinal injury at a time when her parent seem unable to "carry the ball." D.J. has what it takes!

Myers, Walter Dean. What They Found: Love on 145th Street. Wendy Lamb/Random House. 978-0-385-32138-9, T \$15.99 (Grade 9-12). This sweetly lovely collection of short stories examines love of all kinds—parental, filial, sibling, romantic, friendly—among the varied but always vividly realized denizens of Myers's beloved Harlem.

Newton, Robert. Runner. Alfred A. Knopf. 978-0-375-83744-9, T \$15.99 (Grade 6-12). Against his mother's wishes Charlie becomes a "runner" for a mobster in 1919 Melbourne. He gets the job because of his love of running, but he quickly matures to realize the moral dilemma he faces in supporting crime. Well-developed characters and an excellent recreation of place and time are highlights of this outstanding book.

O'Connor, Barbara. How to Steal a Dog. Farrar, Straus and Giroux. 978-0-374-33497-0, R \$16.00 (Grade 4-6). Georgina, her mother and her brother have been living out of their car for far too long when she decides that the only way she can help the family's finances is to steal a dog for the reward money. A characteristically finely tuned outing that examines the moral lives of children in trouble.

Peet, Mal. Tamar A Novel of Espionage, Passion and Betrayal. Candlewick Press. 978-0-7636-3488-9, R \$17.99 (Grade 9-12). This book moves smoothly back and forth in time between the suspense-filled lives of resistance fighters in Holland during World War II and fifty years later, when fifteen-year-old Tamar stumbles upon and then explores the deceit of her grandfather's post-war life. Beautifully written, each word is chosen with care.

Pratchett, Terry. Johnny and the Bomb. HarperCollins. 978-0-06-054191-0, T \$ 16.99 (Grade 5-10). Johnny finds himself traveling in time back to the very day when he knows a German bomb will devastate a large part of his hometown. What will be the consequences of tampering with time, to prevent the loss of life that's coming? Brilliant Pratchett, with customary humor and insight, takes readers on a wild spin through time.

Reeve, Philip. A Darkling Plain. Eos/Harper. 978-0-08-089056-8, T \$19.89 (Grade 7-12). Reeve's monumental "Hungry City Chronicles" thunders to a pyrotechnic, deeply satisfying close, as Tom and Hester, Wren and Theo find themselves tested to the utmost and forced to choose between love and inhumanity in an increasingly insane and loveless future.

Reeve, Philp. Starcross: A Stirring Adventure of Spies, Time Travel and Curious Hats. Bloomsbury, 2006. 978-1-59990-121-3, R \$16.95 (Grade 4-8). This riotous sequel to last year's *Larklight* takes Art Mumby and his family to the asteroid-belt seaside resort of Starcross, where they discover a terrifying plan to take over the British Empire with "highly intelligent hats from the future!"

Rex, Adam. The True Meaning of Smekday. Hyperion. 978-0-7868-4900-0, R \$16.99 (Grade 4-8). Gratuity "Tip" Tucci's 5-page entry in the National Time Capsule essay contest on "The True Meaning of Smekday" expands beyond its maximum limit, giving future generations a truly hilarious look at an alien invasion for the ages. Embellished by Rex's cartoons, this road trip will keep readers in stitches.

Root, Phyllis. Aunt Nancy and the Bothersome Visitors. Candlewick. 978-0-7636-3074-4, R \$16.99 (Grade K-4). The texts of Aunt Nancy's first two picture-book outings (*Aunt Nancy and Old Man Trouble* and *Aunt Nancy and Cousin Lazybones*) appear here with two new stories to make a delightfully down-home collection in which the redoubtable Aunt Nancy proves she's trickier than just about anyone. Decorated with David Parkins's lively silhouettes.

Russell, Christopher. Hunted. Greenwillow Books. 978-0-06-084120-1, L \$16.89 (Grade 5-9). In the sequel to *Dogboy*, Brind and Aurelie are rejected by Sir Edmond after his wife dies of plague. Pursued by a self-serving monk and the disease itself, the children and two hunting dogs take to the roads. Non-stop adventure and a strong sense of place and time make this historical novel hard to put down.

Salisbury, Graham. Night of the Howling Dogs. Delacorte Press. 978-0-385-73364-9, T \$15.99 (Grade 5-9). A small troop of boy scouts is caught on an isolated Hawaiian beach during a powerful earthquake and tsunami. This fast-paced survival story also follows the rivalry between the narrator and another, “bad boy” scout.

Silverman, Erica. Cowgirl Kate and Cocoa – School Days. Harcourt. 978-0-15-205378-9, R \$15.00 (Grade K-3). Beginning readers will enjoy the continuing adventures of Cowgirl Kate and her horse Cocoa. Cocoa becomes jealous when Kate goes off to school.

Smith, Roland. Peak. Harcourt Children’s Books. 978-015-202417-8, R \$17.00 (Grade 7-12). Peak is an amazingly gifted climber--the book begins with him scaling a New York skyscraper. Sent to join his father at the base of Mt. Everest, he gets a look a climbing’s seamier side, then realizes he has become a pawn in a publicity stunt cooked up by his long-lost dad.

Spinelli, Eileen. Where I Live Now. Dial Books for Young Readers. 978-0-8037-3122-6, R \$16.99 (Grade 3-6). Moving is hard on children, as clearly made evident by the pain shown in Diana’s story in verse. Children who have shared the loss that relocating brings may find solace in her eventual recovery of happiness.

Sturm, James. Satchel Paige: Striking Out Jim Crow. Hyperion Books for Children. 978-078683900-1, R \$16.99 (Grade 4-8). In graphic novel format, Satchel Paige’s remarkable career, from Negro League superstar to Major League fame, is portrayed through the eyes of a fictional black ballplayer.

Tan, Shaun. The Arrival. Arthur A. Levine/Scholastic. 978-0-439-89259-3, R \$19.99 (Grade 4-10). This wordless graphic novel depicts the journey of one man from his homeland to a new country, unsettling science-fiction motifs underscoring the strangeness of this strange land that nevertheless offers warmth, friendship and opportunity.

Thomson, Sarah L. Dragon’s Egg. Greenwillow Books. 978-0-06-128847-0, L [M] \$17.89 (Grade 4-8). Mella is a talented dragonkeeper, but the dragons she keeps are small, domesticated animals. After she discovers the egg of a wild dragon and promises its dying mother she will bring it to the far-away dragon breeding grounds, she is determined to do just that. Young squire Roger provides needed assistance in an adventurous tale. Lupine Award for J/YA.

Vande Velde, Vivian. Remembering Raquel. Harcourt, Inc. 978-0-15-205976-7, R \$16.00 (Grade 6-12). Fourteen-year-old Raquel was not popular or pretty. In brief chapters, through the different voices of people whose lives she touched, readers learn about Raquel. To some, she was all but invisible. Those who knew her best tell a different story. Very moving and often painfully sad.

Varon, Sara. Robot Dreams. Roaring Brook Press. 978-1-59643-108-9, R \$16.95 (Grade K-6). After a day at the beach immobilizes his robot friend, a dog and a mechanical man reluctantly part, but their friendship continues on, in a charming graphic novel.

White, Ruth. Way Down Deep. Farrar, Straus and Giroux. 978-0-374-38251-3, R \$16.00 (Grade 4-6). Ruby mysteriously appeared one night on the steps of the courthouse of Way Down Deep, WV. Although she’s been raised with lots of love, she has always wondered about her birth family; the arrival of a new family in town prompts her to pursue this curiosity, in this tale tinged with magical realism.

Wilce, Ysabeau S. Flora Segunda. Harcourt. 978-0-15-205433-5, R \$17.00 (Grade 5-10). This lush, fresh fantasy presents readers with Flora Segunda, youngest daughter of a once-proud family. Poppy is a drunken failure; Mamma is General of the Warlord’s forces; her older sister is off training at the Barracks—but Flora wants to be a Ranger, not a soldier. What’s a girl on the brink of her Catorcena (14th birthday) ceremony to do?

Wynne-Jones, Tim. Rex Zero and the End of the World. Melanie Kroupa/FSG. 978-0-374-33467-3, \$16.00 R (Grade 4-9). It’s 1962, and Ottawa is as caught up in Cold War craziness as the rest of North America. Rex, just moved to town from Vancouver, can’t do anything about that, but he can join in with the other kids as they hunt down a panther they think is lurking in the local park. Boston Globe-Horn Book Honor for Fiction/Poetry.

Zevin, Gabrielle. Memoirs of a Teenage Amnesiac. Farrar, Straus and Giroux. 978-0-374-34946-2, R \$17.00 (Grade 9-12). When Naomi wakes up from a head injury, she finds that she’s lost the last three years of her life. Now she must reconstruct herself, but as she explores, she finds that she might not like the person she used to be.

NONFICTION [total books in this category: 27]

Aronson, Marc. Race: A History Beyond Black and White. Gineeo Seo/Atheneum. 978-0-689-86554-1, R \$18.99 (Grade 9-12). This dense work challenges readers to reexamine how they conceptualize race by taking them back through history to understand the building blocks of our modern understanding of race. Fascinating and important, if not a particularly easy read.

Bolden, Tonya. M.L.K.: Journey of a King. Abrams. 978-0-8109-5476-2, R \$19.95 (Grade 5-12). This beautifully designed biography of Dr. King stands out both for its bookmaking and the vigor of its prose, which powerfully makes the life of the Civil Rights leader accessible and inspirational.

Burns, Loree Griffin. Tracking Trash, Flotsam Jetsam, and Science of Ocean Motion. Houghton Mifflin Company. 978-0-618-58131-3, R \$18.00 (Grade 5-9). So much trash ends up in the sea. What have scientists discovered by tracking where it goes? Burns succinctly answers this question and many more. Make sure you order the second edition of this book to avoid an unfortunate error in the first! Boston Globe-Horn Book Honor for Nonfiction.

Collard, Sneed B. Pocket Babies and Other Amazing Marsupials. Darby Creek Publishing. 978-1-58196-046-4, R \$18.95 (Grade 4-8). Lots of sharp color photos make this informative book about the many varieties of marsupials good for browsing as well as for more serious research. Detailed and fascinating text will keep older readers engaged.

David, Laurie and Gordon, Cambria. The Down-to-Earth Guide to Global Warming. Scholastic, Inc. 978-0-439-02494-5, R \$15.99 (Grade 5-10). Don't know much about global warming? Start here with an informative and accessible but upbeat look at the problem and some of the potential solutions, many of them ideas that kids can embrace and plausibly accomplish.

Fleishman, John. Black and White Airmen: Their True History. Houghton Mifflin Company. 978-0-618-56297-8, R \$20.00 (Grade 6-12). Fleishman compares and contrasts the vastly different personal experiences of two World War II Army Air Force pilots, one black and the other white, providing not just a war story but also a look at segregation in that period of time.

Freedman, Russell. Who Was First? Discovering the Americas. Clarion. 978-0-618-66391-6, R \$19.00 (Grade 4-8). Everyone knows Christopher Columbus discovered America, right? Nope—in another well-researched, well-documented and eminently readable entry into juvenile nonfiction, Freedman effectively dispels that myth, bringing to young readers new research into the history and prehistory of human occupation of the Americas.

Giblin, James Cross. The Many Rides of Paul Revere. Scholastic. 978-0-439-57290-3, R \$17.99 (Grade 4-8). Multiple award-winner Giblin fleshes out the story of Paul Revere beyond his famous Midnight Ride, including one to Penobscot Bay in 1799; lavish illustrations including photographs, maps and archival material round out this stellar treatment.

Grandits, John. Blue Lipstick: Concrete Poems. Clarion. 978-0-618-56860-3, R \$15.00 (Grade 5-10). Playfully shaped poems tell the story of high-school student Jessie, who has to cope with bad hair days, zombie jocks, her annoying littler brother and the notion that Andrea, the incredibly obnoxious cheerleader, might actually be a good candidate for a friend.

Hampton, Wilborn. War in the Middle East: A Reporter's Story. Candlewick. 978-0-7636-2493-4, R \$19.99 (Grade 7-12). Hampton, a former U.P.I. reporter who covered the Middle East during the Yom Kippur War, delivers both a cogent summation of the troubled history of the region and compelling you-are-there reportage of his experiences.

Krull, Kathleen. Marie Curie. Viking. 978-0-670-05894-5, R \$15.99 (Grade 5-8). This fourth entry in the Giants of Science series is every bit as good as the ones that have gone before, delivering a chatty account of the life of the pioneering physicist, consistently and credibly explaining why Curie belongs in the scientific pantheon.

Lunge-Larsen, Lise. The Adventures of Thor, the Thunder God. Houghton Mifflin. 978-0-618-47301-4, R \$19.95 (Grade K-9). Ably illustrated by Jim Madsen, this powerfully told collection brings Norse mythology to life for a new audience.

Malone, Peter. Close to the Wind: The Beaufort Scale. Putnam. 978-0-399-243999-8, R \$16.99 (Grade 3-6). This ingenious volume uses the journey of one fictional vessel from Naples to Barbados to illustrate the Beaufort scale, a simple methodology for gauging the strength of the wind by observation, still used by sailors today.

Marcus, Leonard S. The Golden Legacy: How Golden Books Won Children's Hearts, Changed Publishing Forever, and Became an American Icon Along the Way. Golden Books. 978-0-375-82996-3, T \$40.00 (Adult/Professional). The subtitle and the cover illustration of a little girl reading *the Poky Little Puppy* says it all. Another illuminating work from one of children's literature's foremost scholars.

Markle, Sandra. Octopuses. Lerner Publications. 978-0-8225-6063-1, R \$25.26 (Grade 4-6). Striking color photographs and brief text alternate between following the life cycle of a giant Pacific octopus and providing less detailed but equally interesting information about other types of octopuses.

Miller, Lee. Roanoke The Mystery of the Lost Colony. Scholastic Nonfiction. 978-0-439-71266-8, R \$18.99 (Grade 6-9). In 1587, about 115 English colonists were all but abandoned on the shores of Roanoke Island, and never seen again. Using photographs and period artwork, Miller presents their complicated story, including the royal intrigue that may have caused their ultimate disappearance.

Murphy, Jim. The Real Benedict Arnold. Clarion Books. 978-0-395-77609-4, R \$20.00 (Grade 7-12). How did Benedict Arnold go from being one of the bravest and most effective of the American generals of the Revolutionary War to being one of the most reviled traitors in U.S. history? Murphy provides a fascinating look at the sad infighting that led Arnold to his unfortunate but, perhaps, unavoidable choice.

Murrie, Steve, and Matthew Murrie. Every Minute on Earth: Fun Facts that Happen Every 60 Seconds. Scholastic Reference. 978-0-439-90887-0, P \$9.99 (Grade 4-6). In one minute: A sloth can travel 13 feet; your brain sends and receives six trillion messages; 17,000 candy corns (but only 5,723 Pez candies) are made. Cheerily illustrated by Mary Anne Lloyd, this busy compendium is a browser's dream.

Pardes, Bronwen. Doing It Right: Making Smart, Safe, and Satisfying Choices About Sex. Simon Pulse. 978-1-4169-1823-3, P \$14.99 (Grade 7-12). Explicit, collegial and complete, this frank volume has the answers to just about every question a teen might have about sex. The non-judgmental approach to the realities of sex may make adults uncomfortable but may well also save not a few teen lives.

Platt, Richard. Pompeii One Roman City, One House...More Than 2,000 Years of Change. Kingfisher. 978-0-7534-6044-3, R \$16.95 (Grade 4-8). Manuela Cappon's detailed drawings follow one house through 2,000 years of history, volcanic eruptions and damaging excavations. The book ends with a description of issues facing Pompeii today. The drawings invite close scrutiny and will entice readers back for a second (or third) look!

Ray, Deborah Kogan. Down the Colorado John Wesley Powell, the One-Armed Explorer. Frances Foster Books. 978-0-374-31838-3, R \$17.00 (Grade 4-8). After losing his arm in the Civil War, Powell became a brave and thorough explorer of the Colorado River. The author's graphic, full-page gouache-and-watercolor illustrations extend the text. Detailed endnotes and a map provide additional information.

Rumford, James. Beowulf. Houghton Mifflin. 978-0-618-75637-7, R \$17.00 (Grade 4-9). This gorgeously illustrated retelling of the oldest work in the English language distinguishes itself with its beautiful design and the creator's decision to use no words brought over to Britain by the Norman invaders.

Scott, Elaine. When Is a Planet Not a Planet?: The Story of Pluto. Clarion Books. 978-0-618-89832-9, T \$17.00 (Grade 4-6). This slim well written volume presents both an interesting, concise history of astronomy and the scientific rationale for Pluto's demotion in status. Contains a glossary, index & suggestions for additional reading.

Sitarski, Anita. Cold Light Creatures, Discoveries, and Inventions That Glow. Boyds Mills Press, 978-1-59078-468-6, R \$16.95 (Grade 5-9). An easy-going, conversational style presents lots of detailed information about various kinds of light that are not produced as a by-product of extreme heating, including chemi- and bioluminescence and finally, a timely bit about LEDs. The glowing chickens and mice are very amusing!

Sullivan, George. Helen Keller Her Life In Pictures. Scholastic. 978-0-439-91815-2, T \$17.99 (Grade 4-9). With only brief text, Sullivan lets black and white photographs tell the story of Keller's life, emphasizing Helen's upbeat attitude. The book includes a forward by Keller's great-grandniece, Keller Johnson Thompson.

Weatherford, Carole Boston. Birmingham, 1963. Wordsong/Boyds Mills. 978-1-59078-440-2, R \$17.95 (Grade 4-8). This slim volume of poems, illustrated with archival photographs, tells the events of 1963 through the eyes of a little girl who turns 10 in the midst of the tumult. Poignant and powerful.

Worth, Valerie. Animal Poems. Farrar, Straus and Giroux. 978-0-374-38057-1, R \$17.00 (Grade 2-6). Twenty-three different animals receive a whimsical poetic tribute, accompanied by Steve Jenkins's beautiful trademark cut-paper collages on spare uncluttered backgrounds.

THE AWARDS AT A GLANCE

Note: Award books listed here may or may not be included in the “Cream of the Crop” list.

Batchedler (Mildred L.) Award – Awarded yearly to a publisher for excellence in translation

Winner: Miyabe, Miyuki. Brave Story

Honors: Goscinny, Rene. Nicholas and the Gang

Richter, Jutta. The Cat or How I Lost Eternity

Boston Globe-Horn Book Award – Awarded yearly for books published June-May; only 2007 winners & honorees are included (for a complete list, go to <http://www.hbook.com/bghb/current.asp>)

Fiction and Poetry:

Winner: Anderson, M.T. The Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing, Traitor to the Nation, Volume 1: The Pox Party

Honors: Pennypacker, Sara. Clementine

Wynne-Jones, Tim. Rex Zero and the End of the World

Nonfiction

Winner: Debon, Nicholas. The Strongest Man in the World: Louis Cyr

Honors: Burns, Loree Griffen. Tracking Trash, Flotsam, Jetsam and the Science of Ocean Motion

Fleischman, Sid. Escape! The Story of the Great Houdini

Picture Book:

Winner: Seeger, Laura Vaccaro. Dog and Bear: Two Friends, Three Stories

Honors: Fromental, Jean-Luc. 365 Penguins

Gravett, Emily. Wolves

Caldecott Medal – Awarded yearly to recognize excellence in American illustrations for children 14 and under

Winner: Selznick, Brian. The Invention of Hugo Cabret

Honors: Levine, Ellen. Henry's Freedom Box: A True Story From the Underground Railroad

Seeger, Laura Vaccaro. First the Egg

Sis, Peter. The Wall: Growing Up Behind the Iron Curtain

Willems, Mo. Knuffle Bunny Too: A Case of Mistaken Identity

King (Coretta Scott) Award – Awarded yearly to recognize excellence in writing and illustration by African-Americans

Author Award

Winner: Curtis, Christopher Paul. Elijah of Buxton

Honors: Draper, Sharon M. November Blues

Smith, Charles R. Twelve Rounds to Glory: The Story of Muhammed Ali

Illustrator Award

Winner: Bryan, Ashley. Let It Shine

Honors: Devard, Nancy. The Secret Olivia Told Me

Dillon, Diane and Leo. Jazz on a Saturday Night

John Steptoe Award for New Talent

Author Award

Winner: Frazier, Sundee T. Brendan Buckley's Universe and Everything in It

Lupine Award – Presented annually by the Youth Services Section of the Maine Library Association, to recognize an outstanding contribution to children's literature of Maine

Picture Book

Winner: Madison, Alan. Velma Gratch and the Way Cool Butterfly

Honors: Gershator, Phillis. Sky Sweeper

J/YA

Winner: Thomson, Sarah. Dragon's egg

Honor: Perkins, Mitali. Rickshaw Girl

Newbery Medal – Awarded yearly to recognize excellence to American literature for children 14 and under

Winner: Schlitz, Laura Amy. Good Masters! Sweet Ladies! Voices from a Medieval Village

Honors: Curtis, Christopher Paul. Elijah of Buxton

Schmidt, Gary D. The Wednesday Wars

Woodson, Jacqueline. Feathers

Printz (Michael L.) Award – Awarded yearly to recognize excellence in literature for young adults

Winner: McCaughrean, Geraldine. The White Darkness

Honors: Clarke, Judith. One Whole and Perfect Day

Hemphill, Stephanie. Your Own, Sylvia: A Verse Portrait of Sylvia Plath

Jenkins, A.M. Repossessed

Knox, Elizabeth. Dreamquake: Book Two of the Dreamhunter Duet

Schneider Family Book Award – Awarded for books that embody an artistic expression of the disability experience; only 2007 winners are included (for a complete list, go to: <http://www.ala.org/Template.cfm?Section=awards&template=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=147808>)

Birth through Grade School

Winner: Styer, Andrea Stenn. Kami and the Yaks

Middle School

Winner: Zimmer, Tracie Vaughn. Reaching for Sun

Teen

Winner: Rorby, Ginny. Hurt Go Happy

Sibert (Robert F.) Medal – Awarded yearly to recognize excellence in informational writing for children 14 and under

Winner: Sis, Peter. The Wall: Growing Up Behind the Iron Curtain

Honors: Bishop, Nic. Nic Bishop Spiders

Floca, Brian. Lightship

Theodor Seuss Geisel Award – Awarded for the most distinguished beginning reader book

Winner: Willems, Mo. There Is a Bird on Your Head

Honors: Lunde, Darrin. Hello, Bumblebee Bat

Sayre, April Pulley. Vulture View

Seeger, Laura Vaccaro. First the Egg

Wheeler, Lisa. Jazz Baby

Special thanks to the Cream of the Crop Committee

Louise Capizzo, Children's Librarian, Falmouth Memorial Library

Kathy George, Children's Librarian, Gray Public Library

Leslie Rounds, Director, Dyer Library, Saco

Vicky Smith, Children's Book Review Editor, Kirkus Reviews, New York, NY (formerly Director, McArthur Public Library, Biddeford)

Marilyn Taylor, Youth Services Assistant, Scarborough Public Library